

THE COMMONWEALTH

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People

VOLUME XXXIII. TWICE-A-WEEK. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1916. READ IT FIRST IN THIS PAPER. NUMBER 53

CORRESPONDENCE LETTER FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

Raleigh, N. C., August 15.—Prominent Democrats in Raleigh recently from various counties of the State, in attendance on the meeting of the State Executive Committee and otherwise, were in optimistic frame of mind respecting the results of this campaign year. But there is work to be done and they all expressed approval of Chairman Warren's policy of "safety first," which can be best guaranteed by thorough party organization, beginning with the precinct activities, which he is urging on the local county chairmen and precinct committeemen.

The State chairman regards the proper polling of the precinct vote in every county as a corner-stone of success this year and he expressed the earnest hope that the local Democratic managers will be more prompt and thorough in undertaking and performing that work.

Secretary Callie and his office force at State headquarters are getting the preliminary work of the campaign well under way, and soon announcements of dates for speeches over the State will be announced. Governor Bickett will have a great crowd to welcome him at Asheville Aug. 19th, reports reaching here state. Chairman Warren is addressing himself, also to the task of enlisting a strong force of speakers. He wants every local Democrat in every county who can talk well and effectively to join the speaking force and take the stump without delay. He says he has information that the Republicans in all the close counties are being well supplied with money and that the Republican National Committee is flooding the State with campaign literature in which there is much misinformation and false statements. The State chairman wants every Democrat who can make a speech to take the stump and tell the voters the truth.

State headquarters here is circulating many of the Maxwell pamphlets which is regarded as one of the strongest of campaign documents and which clearly refutes Republican charges of "Democratic mismanagement." Every voter should read it. Cheerful and cheering news comes from different quarters of the State to headquarters daily and is very grateful to all, but chairman Warren is not banking on forecasts, but pins his faith chiefly to good work and plenty of it.

State headquarters here are circulating speaking tour of the State next Monday. The following dates have been fixed for Mr. Morrison to date. Other announcements will follow. At Rockingham, Aug. 21; Laurinburg, 22; Monroe, 24; Raeford, 25; Sanford, 26; Lumberton, 29; Fayetteville, 30; Saint Pauls, 31.

Hughes' Speeches on Low Plane.
Candidate Hughes is severely criticized for the "misstatements" made in his speeches in the West the last few days, concerning the alleged removal of Republican officials not coming within the civil service law—"protection," etc. The heads of the departments which Mr. Hughes misrepresented characterized his utterances as "false and misleading"—and this is the "high-minded jurist" lifted from the bench under the pretext of conducting the campaign on a "high plane."

Ever since candidate Hughes opened his mouth he has exhibited a marvelous knack of saying things he "hadn't ought to." Indeed, it seems that he has a special penchant for getting tangled up (probably the reason he kept so quiet pending the doings at Chicago) and if the rope holds out before the more astute party managers grab it he probably can be depended on to duly hang himself politically by the time the hour arrives for counting the votes in November.

Meantime, the real issues of this campaign will soon be properly presented to a thinking and discriminating public in President Wilson's letter of acceptance, due soon.

Something Worth While.
The N. C. Electric Institute, which held its first meeting here during the last week at the instance of Commissioner of Insurance J. B. Young, was a pronounced success and will result in annual meetings hereafter. It promises to become one of the most useful and beneficial of organizations upon whose good work many lives and much property will be saved annually, the loss of which (through faulty electrical installation and kindred accidents) had become so alarming of late that Commissioner Young determined to secure means to stop it. The meeting extended its thanks to Mr. Young by a rising vote for his activities and good advice.

Federal Relief for Flooded District.
North Carolinians who have just returned from Washington give assurances that the Federal Government of Agriculture and the War Department are already at work to help relieve the situation in the flooded counties of N. C. Representatives of the government have already been in Raleigh in this

connection and are now in the western counties.

The meeting held last Friday in this city was attended by some of them. The work of these agents and the money congress is appropriating will greatly help our home people who have raised thirty-odd thousand dollars in the State so far. The means at hand, however, are not yet adequate to meet the situation.

That Farm Loan Bank.
North Carolinians who are actively working to secure one of the twelve farm loan banks for this state have wisely reached the agreement to make the city of its location subordinate to the main idea—the establishment of one of the new federal banks in North Carolina for the benefit and convenience of North Carolinians, the rural element especially. Raleigh wants the bank and there are other towns that would like to secure it. Once it is decided by the Farm Loan Bank Board to locate a bank in North Carolina, the matter of selecting the city can be adjusted later.

This week the North Carolina Congressmen and other Tar Heels in Washington for the purpose, except to get a hearing with this farm bank board. Later, when this district is reached, Chairman Norros, of the bank board, promises to hold a hearing in Raleigh some time in November.

New Tar Heel Lieutenants.
A number of young Tar Heels, graduates and students of the A. & M. college at Raleigh, and other colleges where military tactics form a part of the curriculum, are expected to take the test here for army appointments August 21. There are fifteen hundred vacancies in the grade of second lieutenant of the U. S. Army at present and pay is something worth while. Early promotion to first lieutenant is also possible and the salary that much better. The Adjutant General at Washington has written to President Riddick of the A. & M. College stating that graduates and certain students of that institution are eligible for appointment if they stand the customary examination.

This opportunity is something different and rather to the good, when compared to the opening for enlistment as privates in the National Guard of the several states. Enlisting in the State Guard has practically ceased in this community, as the prospects of a fight with "Greasers" have about vanished, and the boys hereabouts do not aspire to border patrol or Fort Bliss camp duty. The recruiting officers sent here from Camp Glenn report practically nothing doing.

LLEWXAM.

**FRENCH CRUISER SAILS
AFTER A BRIEF VISIT.**
Unusually frequent soundings taken in the Harbor Caused Comment Among Marine Men.
Pensacola, Fla., Aug. 13.—The French cruiser, Admiral Aube, which unexpectedly entered this port yesterday, left today without the real mission of her visit becoming definitely known. Captain Leskivit took on no fuel or supplies but did receive a small packet of documents from the French consul here.

Marine observers, including pilots here, are of the opinion that the cruiser's principal reason for entering the harbor was to make soundings and to get first hand information of the port. Sounding taken when she approached, crossed and left the bar immediately in her wake yesterday, did not attract attention, but unusually frequent soundings, over an irregular course after she entered the harbor, caused comment among marine men.

Captain Leskivit declined to allow a newspaper man aboard the vessel. Just before he sailed he said to the Associated Press:

"We are going out for a short pleasure cruise" and turned away to direct the pilot to his post.

The Admiral Aube left at 9:30 o'clock this morning and after discharging the pilot turned slightly to the east and proceeded down the coast at about an eight knot speed. Tug boat men coming into Pensacola tonight said they had sighted the warship south-east of the Pensacola light, which showed that she had changed her course and was bearing west.

**MOLLISTER, IN HALIFAX, IS
PROUD POSSESSOR OF BANK**
Rocky Mount, Aug. 11.—Organization of the Bank of Mollister in the youngest and one of the most progressive towns in Halifax county is another step in that community's advancement reported this week. The institution is to start business with \$10,000 capital, which has been subscribed and A. B. Schlichter elected president; Dr. Norman, vice-president, and J. W. Renshaw cashier. The contract was immediately given for a \$3,000 bank building, and it is expected that the new institution will open for business early in the coming fall.

Mollister is the new town in Halifax county which has sprung into existence following the building of a mammoth mill and woodworking plant of the Ferguson Lumber company.

**BANKERS CALLED TO MEET
IN RALEIGH ON WEDNESDAY**
To Discuss Reserve Board's Recent Order as to Check Clearing.
Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 13.—North Carolina bankers are called to meet in Raleigh on Wednesday of this week for the special purpose of taking whatever steps are advisable looking to the permanent withdrawal of the recent order of the plan of the Federal Reserve Board to change the check clearing system by providing for postoffices to collect checks, thereby making serious inroads on the revenue of great numbers of the smaller banks, most especially.

The call for the Wednesday conference is issued by President W. S. Blakeney, Monroe, and Secretary W. A. Hunt Henderson, and the indications are that there will be a very large attendance and unanimity in demand that there be a permanent cancellation of the order that they insist would prove disastrous for great numbers of the banks in the State and the Nation.

**ROANOKE RAPIDS NOW
IN VIRGINIA LEAGUE.**
Enthusiasts of Halifax Town Back up Their Club for Best of the Season.
Roanoke Rapids succeeds Hopewell in the Virginia League and will finish the season in Class C company, according to reports made public Saturday. The Tri-Town League collapsed during last week when Franklin and Emporia both threw up the sponge. In the first game of the present series, Roanoke Rapids defeated Rocky Mount by the score of 4 to 1, the game being played yesterday. Today's game was postponed on account of rain.

**THREE MEMBERS OF COAST
ARTILLERY LOSE LIVES**
William Ardrey, Leonard Swain and Fred White Drowned at Fort Caswell.
Wilmington, Aug. 13.—Three members of the North Carolina coast artillery reserves, in annual encampment at Fort Caswell, near here, lost their lives today while in bathing in the surf at the fort. The dead are First Sergeant William Ardrey and Lance Corporal Leonard Swain, of the Charlotte company; Fred White, of the Salisbury company.

It is stated positively that Swain and White were drowned. Ardrey is believed to have died of heart failure. The bodies of Ardrey and Swain were recovered within a few minutes and vigorous but futile efforts were made by the camp physicians and the Oak Island life saving crew to resuscitate them.

White's body was washed away by the strong outgoing tide and has not been recovered. It is said that Ardrey and Swain lost their lives in efforts to rescue White, who cried for help when he found himself being carried out by the tide.

**TOXAWAY LAKE
IN NOW THING
OF THE PAST**
Asheville, N. C., Aug. 13.—The great dam at Lake Toxaway, 50 feet high and 400 feet in width and holding back waters that covered 500 acres of land in the Toxaway region, 38 miles from this city, crumpled and went out with a roar at 7:10 tonight, and at 11 o'clock tonight the waters thus released were racing toward South Carolina cities in their path, including Wallhalla, Anderson, Pickens and Seneca. Warnings of flood danger were sent to all South Carolina points by the Associated Press at this city.

According to long distance messages from Toxaway, the entire dam, built of earth and stone, seemed to melt before the rush of water within a few minutes. The initial opening in the dam was caused, it is believed, by the seeping of a natural spring at the base, not larger than a railway coach.

The dam, which was built in 1903 at a cost of 38,000, was built at a point where the hills were not more than 400 yards apart. Over this dam, the waters of Toxaway river flow down a narrow and densely wooded gorge for a distance of sixteen miles of comparatively uninhabited country before it empties into the Chuga river and strikes the first town in its path in South Carolina.

There have been no unusual rains in lake section for several days, but it is thought that the dam was weakened by its heavy rains which flooded Western North Carolina during the week of July 16. This is the third and largest of the lakes in the mountains of Western North Carolina which have gone out since the July storms.

The Toxaway country is known as the "beautiful Sapphire section" in tourist circles. The lake and the hotel named after the section, were built in 1902 by a party of Pittsburgh capitalists. The company originally owned 3,100 acres of land in the Toxaway country, the purchase being made with a view of mining operations. A few years ago, certain land owners whose plants were in the path of the waters should they escape, employed several expert engineers to investigate the safety of the dam, with the idea of securing legislative relief, should it be determined that their properties were endangered. Following the engineers' report the dam was strengthened materially, large piles of rocks being unloaded at its base.

Four weeks ago, during the flood period, fears for the safety of the Toxaway dam were repeatedly expressed, and there were several reports that the dam had gone out.

At 11 o'clock a telephone message from Lake Toxaway stated the lake was being rapidly drained. It was thought that the flood waters would reach Wallhalla and Anderson, S. C., about midnight.

**STICLOW IS SAVED AT LAST;
CRIME IS OWNED BY ANOTHER**
Had Been Prepared for the Death Chair Three Times, Thrice Reprieved.
New York, Aug. 11.—Charles P. Sticlow, a subnormal German, three times made ready for electrocution at Sing Sing and reprieved at the last moments, was today found innocent through the confession of Irving King, an itinerant junkman, to the murder of Charles Phelps and Margaret Wolcott, his housekeeper in 1915. Nelson Groom, Sticlow's "confederate," was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The fight to save Sticlow was one of the most dramatic in the history of Sing Sing. He was convicted on "forced confession" of Groom, who was subjected to violent "third degree" torture for whole days and nights; Sticlow's attorney will move to set aside the sentences.

**MEXICO QUARANTINES AGAINST
EPIDEMIC.**
Mexico City, Aug. 12.—The Mexican government tonight declared a quarantine at all Gulf ports against New York because of the infantile paralysis epidemic. The order was issued by General Carranza through the minister of the interior.

**"BULLET PROTECTOR" IS
NOT HELPFUL BUT HARMFUL**
Vienna, July 30.—The Austrian authorities have been making an apparently ineffectual fight against an alleged "bullet protector" that is widely sold, but which it is claimed is dangerous rather than helpful in anyway.

The "protector" is nothing but a curved piece of metal that is hung about the neck inside the tunic, and which its producers claim, will stop or lessen the force of a bullet fired at long range. In practice, the authorities claim, it is merely a menace because a bullet at short range—as most of them are—will not only pierce it easily but flatten out in the process and often carry bits of the metal on into the body.

Some half a dozen dealers in the "protector" were haled before the courts recently on the charge of endangering public safety. Each claimed that the metal shields will stop bullets fired at a thousand yards or more. They established satisfactorily that they never had sold the shields under any other pretense, and therefore could not be held for fraud.

**AUSTRIANS LOST 50,000 MEN
IN FALL OF GORITZ**
Rome, Aug. 14.—The Austrians lost fifty thousand men in the two days preceding the fall of Goritz. Half of these were taken prisoners and the other half were either killed or wounded.

East of the Goritz the Italian cavalry continues in pursuit of the retreating Austrians that are reported to have reached the Lubione plains. South of the city, on the Carso plateau, the Italians are making a stubborn resistance.

Austrian prisoners report the attack on Goritz as a complete surprise. It had not been expected for two months. Reserves reached the city too late to prevent its falling into the hands of the Italians.

El Paso, Texas, Aug. 11.—The first South Carolina infantry detained here today and went into camp on the outskirts of the city. About 31,000 national guardsmen and regulars are now on station here.

**BAYONNE BABIES DRINK
BEER INSTEAD OF MILK**
Bayonne, N. J., Aug. 10.—Bayonne babies are tipplers. A report submitted to the board of directors of the city's Child Welfare Station by Dr. W. W. Riba, medical examiner, shows a majority of the infants in the foreign section are started out on a diet of beer long before they are old enough to lift their tiny feet to a shiny brass rail.

"Most of the foreign babies in Bayonne begin receiving their daily portion of beer as soon as they are weaned," Dr. Riba said. "In some instances, it is due to the fact that beer is cheaper than cow's milk, and in others, to the belief that it is a better diet. As a matter of fact the stomach of every baby who receives any quantity of beer regularly is burned so badly that the child, in after years, is a perfect subject for every epidemic—including infantile paralysis—that sweeps the country."

Bayonne health authorities are considering a plan to make the babies teetotalers.

**FORTY PERSONS KILLED IN
STEAMER FIRE NEAR SKIATHO**
Athens, Aug. 11.—Via Paris.—The Greek steamer Eletheria, bound from Saloniki to Volo with a cargo of oil, owned by an American company, and 1,200 passengers, principally disbanded troops, caught fire today off the island of Skiatho. Forty persons were killed and many were injured. The captain of the Eletheria succeeded finally in beaching his vessel.

TAKING SCHOOL CENSUS
Mr. Chas. Lamb of Scotland Neck, is taking the school census this week.

MISS HAMPTON DEAD.
Columbia, S. C., Aug. 11.—Miss Kate Hampton, 92 years old, last of the children of Col. Wade Hampton of the war of 1812 and sister of the late Lieutenant General Wade Hampton of the Confederate Army, died last night at the suburban home of her niece, Mrs. John C. Haskell. She spent most of her life at Millwood, her father's country seat near Columbia, residing in a small dwelling nearby after the mansion was burned by federal troops in 1865.

BATTLESIPS FOR THE COMMERCIAL CONGRESS
Secretary Daniels Makes Promise to Manager Owens—Possible That Entire Atlantic Fleet May Take Part
Washington, Aug. 12.—Secretary Daniels today promised Clarence J. Owens, managing director of the Southern Commercial Congress, to assemble two or three naval divisions, and possibly the entire Atlantic fleet, in Hampton Roads during the annual meeting of the congress at Norfolk, December 11 to 14. A naval parade and display may be arranged also. Secretary Daniels will address the congress.

Mr. Daniels declared that most ships in the Atlantic fleet ordinarily would put into the roads off the Christmas holidays and it probably would be easy for them to gather there a little early. In addition to affording a spectacle for those attending the Commercial Congress meeting, it is pointed out, a naval display would be of interest to the entire country.

Secretary Daniels will discuss plans for the fleet assembly with Rear Admiral Benson, chief of the bureau of naval operations, early next week.

Mr. Daniels stated that at least 10 or 12 vessels of the first class probably would be available for the naval assembly, together with a greater number of minor craft.

A gathering of the entire fleet would bring together twice that number. The last parade of the Atlantic fleet was in New York, May 17, 1915, when President Wilson reviewed it.

**STYLES HAVE CHANGED;
AND SKIRTS COST MORE.**
Chicago, August 12.—Here's why her skirt costs so much: Skirt styles change twelve times a year—a skirt season lasts just one month.

In days of yore there were only four skirt seasons to the year, but never again. Chicago skirt manufacturers told this secret when they explained at Bismarck gardens, where Chicago Garment Manufacturers are holding their fall style show, that "just now we are making plaid skirts in browns and greens, but we don't know what they will be making next month." The manufacturers explained that the style of a woman's skirt changes more rapidly than anything else except a woman's mind.

The skirt this season is a little fuller than a month ago and a little fuller. The most popular ones are draped, tunic effects.

**ALL REMAINING UNITS ARE
ORDERED TO THE BORDER**
The New Movement Will Bring the Total of National Guard Troops Along the Mexican Frontier Up to 125,000.
Washington, August 12.—All of the National Guard units included in President Wilson's call on June 18, not yet on the Mexican border, were ordered there today by the War Department. Between 20,000 and 25,000 additional troops will thus be added to the border force. National Guard troops there will number approximately 125,000 and the total of all troops on the border or in Mexico will be 175,000.

Secretary Baker made a formal announcement that the troop movement had nothing whatever to do with the Mexican situation and was solely to relieve thousands of troops now held in mobilization camps only because they lack new recruits to bring units up to fixed maximum strength.

Today's order sends the troops from Kentucky, Ohio and Vermont to the border as soon as transportation can be arranged for them, and will move all the others as soon as they are properly equipped. War Department officials decided on their action because the troops are restive in camp, and there seems to be no stimulus to recruiting while there was no prospect of movement to the border. They now expect most of the regiments will be filled before the troops leave.

**GREAT QUANTITY OF BEER
SEIZED NEAR CHARLESTON.**
Retail Value of the Beer and Whiskey Estimated at \$4,000.
Charleston, S. C., August 11.—Fifteen hundred half pint bottles of whiskey and 12,840 bottles of beer were seized by State constables near Charleston today, the retail value of the alleged contraband being estimated at more than \$4,000. Chief Constable S. M. Duncan said tonight that an examination showed that about 15 bottles of "near beer" contained whiskey. He said "Charles Blue" shipped the carload from Jacksonville to J. H. Blue in Charleston. There does not appear to be a Blue family resident here.

Many of the bottles were not labeled and the chief constable points out that the United States officers would be called upon to investigate this phase.

Permission to use its side track for a carload of "bricks" was given by the McCabe Fertilizer Company, which told the constabulary that H. T. Koester had made the arrangements. Koester insisted that he was given a commission to unload and deliver a "carload of bricks" but declined to tell the officers who was to receive the shipment which came from Jacksonville.

**BIDS FOR MATERIAL
CONSIDERED
BY COMMISSION**
The commission appointed by the Board of Trade and the Town Commissioners some months ago, met this afternoon pursuant to previous adjournment and examined the sealed bids submitted for material for the waterworks and sewer system. About 25 bids were before the commission.

Up to the hour of going to press only the pipes, cast iron and galvanized, the lead, cement, jute and steel preparations were considered and these were awarded as follows:

Lynchburg Foundry Co., Lynchburg, Va., cast iron pipe at \$30.80 per ton, delivered for 6 inch and 8 inch pipe; \$33.80 for 4 inch pipe, delivered. Cast iron fittings \$60.00 per ton

J. D. Westbrook, Norfolk, Va., galvanized pipe \$12.29 per 100 feet; galvanized fittings \$9.48 per 100 lbs; lead \$8.68 1/2 per 100 lbs; jute \$8.75 per 100 lbs; steel \$3.16 base.

Bids for two cars of cement were awarded to local hardware concerns: Posey Hardware Co., and Hardy Hardware Co., one car each.

**EXPLOSION AND FIRES SAID
TO HAVE BEEN INCENDIARY**
Jersey City, N. J., Aug. 11.—Testimony that both the Black Tom explosion and fire in July and the fire in the Claremont freight yards a week afterward were incendiary, was said tonight to have been obtained from many sources by government agents and Robert S. Hudspeth, prosecutor of Hudson county.

The prosecutor's men have learned it was said, that the tremendous explosion in which several lives and millions of dollars in property were lost resulted from a fire which started in the Lehigh Valley railroad yards and not on barges tied at piers as was first reported.

BLOWN TO PIECES BY DYNAMITE
Mooreville, Aug. 11.—Mr. Sloan Bailey of the Amity section, was blown to pieces Wednesday morning in a dynamite explosion at White's dredge boat which is operating in Withrow's creek, Rowan county. Mr. Bailey was near a box of dynamite, but no one knows how it became ignited. He was blown across the creek.

TO NOTIFY FAIRBANKS
Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 11.—The notification ceremonies at which Chas. W. Fairbanks will be told officially of his nomination as the republican candidate for vice president will be held at his residence at two o'clock on the afternoon of August 31, it was announced today. Senator Sherman, of Illinois, will be the principal speaker at a rally at eight o'clock in the evening following the notification.

**REPUBLICANS TAKE THE
HOUSE BASEBALL GAME.**
Washington, August 10.—The annual House baseball game went Republican today by a score of 18 to 13. It was the first Democratic defeat in four years.

The Republican representatives boasted after the game that their well-balanced team was responsible for the victory, but the Democrats laid it at the doors of a country chataqua. They said, the star Democratic pitcher, Representative Yates Webb of North Carolina, who for years had held the Republicans at his mercy, fell over a bench while reaching out to shake hands with an ardent admirer after a speech in Virginia yesterday and sadly sprained his left arm. The alibi aroused derision among the Republicans, who pointed out that Webb is a right-handed pitcher.

Colorado Springs, Aug. 11.—The National Woman's party in executive conference here today pledged itself to use its best efforts in the 12 equal suffrage states to defeat the Democratic candidate for President; congratulated the Progressive, Prohibition and Socialist parties upon their endorsement of suffrage for women by national action, and commended the position of Charles Evans Hughes, the Republican nominee.

**SECRETARY DANIELS
WILL ADDRESS THE CONGRESS**
Secretary Daniels will address the congress.

**STYLES HAVE CHANGED;
AND SKIRTS COST MORE.**
Chicago, August 12.—Here's why her skirt costs so much: Skirt styles change twelve times a year—a skirt season lasts just one month.

In days of yore there were only four skirt seasons to the year, but never again. Chicago skirt manufacturers told this secret when they explained at Bismarck gardens, where Chicago Garment Manufacturers are holding their fall style show, that "just now we are making plaid skirts in browns and greens, but we don't know what they will be making next month." The manufacturers explained that the style of a woman's skirt changes more rapidly than anything else except a woman's mind.

The skirt this season is a little fuller than a month ago and a little fuller. The most popular ones are draped, tunic effects.

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